

when he led the Union Navy to the capture of New Orleans in 1862. And his command, "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead" during his victory at Mobile Bay has become legendary.

As a result of Farragut's tremendous service, Congress established the ranks of rear admiral, vice admiral and admiral. Amazingly, he was the first person to hold each of these titles.

Tomorrow in Bath, Maine, the Navy will christen its newest guided missile destroyer as the USS Farragut. This recognition of Farragut's contribution to our naval tradition is a fitting tribute to one of our Nation's greatest military heroes.

Mr. Speaker, I consider it a privilege to recognize Admiral Farragut on the House floor today. He was a true Tennessee hero and one of our greatest Americans.

COMMUNICATION FROM MEMBER OF IRAQ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, since the 12th of June, there has been an embargo on the American press for reporting on a letter written by the Iraqi legislature. For that reason I will read it here today:

"As the National Assembly is the legitimate representative of the Iraqi people and the guardian of its interests, and as the voice of the people, especially with regard to repeated demands for the departure of the occupation, we note that these demands have earlier been made in more than one session but have blatantly been ignored from the Chair. Worse still is the Government's request to the U.N. Security Council to extend the presence of the occupation forces, made without consultation with the people's representative in the National Assembly who hold the right to make such fateful decisions.

"In line with our historic responsibility, we reject the legitimization of the occupation and we repeat our demand for the departure of the occupation forces, especially since our national forces have been able to break the back of terrorism and to notably establish its presence in the Iraqi street and to recover the state's dignity and the citizen's trust in the security forces leading to the noble objectives in an Iraq whose sovereignty is not embellished.

"Peace and God's Mercy and Blessings be Upon You.

"Falah Hasan Shanshal."

This letter was signed by at least 126 members of the 275-member democratically elected Iraqi parliament and it gets nothing in the American press.

Everyone should know this.

JUDGE JOHN ROBERTS DESERVES A FAIR CONFIRMATION

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to ad-

dress the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, since the moment Justice O'Connor announced her resignation, President Bush has met with an unprecedented number of people of both political parties. His thorough and sound selection process has proven he is dedicated to nominating an impartial, highly qualified person to the Supreme Court.

The President's selection of Judge John Roberts is good for our country. Upon his nomination to the D.C. Circuit, 152 members of the D.C. bar wrote to the Senate Judiciary Committee to note that Judge Roberts is "one of the very best and most highly respected appellate lawyers in the Nation." Throughout his accomplished legal career, Judge Roberts demonstrated that he will fairly interpret and apply the Constitution.

Judge Roberts is a man of great integrity who deserves a civil and swift confirmation process. The United States Senate has already unanimously expressed its confidence in Judge Roberts. I am hopeful that the Senate will confirm his appointment to the United States Supreme Court before the fall term begins.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11 and the London attacks.

"CATCH AND RELEASE"

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, about half the people caught crossing our borders illegally are from some other country than Mexico. They come from places like Colombia, Nicaragua, Brazil, Egypt, Poland, the Philippines, China, Syria, Russia and even France. But the detention facilities for these illegals are full. That means many, about half, are released on their own recognizance. That means on their word they promise to return for a deportation hearing. That means they are supposed to stay here, not leave. That further means 86 percent of those individuals never return for their hearing, according to USA Today.

Are we surprised? This catch-and-release policy defies common sense. It wastes the efforts of our border agents. It does not provide consequences for illegally coming to the United States. Giving illegals a get-out-of-jail-free card is further evidence the United States must have an immigration plan that works.

Everybody wants to live in the United States but everybody cannot live in the United States. We must have a policy that promotes legal immigration and prevents illegal immigration. This catch-and-release policy must cease.

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL SUCCESS

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when President Bush started his first term, he challenged our educational system to end the soft bigotry of low expectations. Some of my colleagues objected to the accountability necessary. Students must be challenged to achieve. We must insist on results in our classrooms rather than accepting the status quo.

Students and teachers in Cobb County, Georgia, have accepted the challenge and excelled. Pope, Walton, Kennesaw Mountain, and Lassiter High Schools have some of the highest percentages of students meeting and exceeding standards in the entire State of Georgia.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of all the teachers and students who dedicate themselves and work so diligently to make these achievements. I am excited about what is happening with education in my district. Challenging students to excel and insisting on accountability are the keys. Administrators, parents, teachers and students are to be congratulated. I am proud of the steps the Cobb County school system has taken to provide quality education to our children, some of the best in the State.

CIVIL LIBERTIES

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives made permanent many of the provisions of the PATRIOT Act which have caused great concern across this country with respect to undermining basic civil liberties. When we sing the Star Spangled Banner, we ask a question, "Does that star spangled banner yet wave o'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?"

Francis Scott Key when he wrote the Star Spangled Banner understood the connection between freedom and bravery, between democracy and courage. We must work to create a Nation where we encourage the people of America to be free of fear. We must work to create a Nation where we are not afraid to celebrate our civil liberties.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3070, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 370 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows: